

Fairfax Connector - SmarTrip Card Update for March, 2006

As part of a regional effort to provide an automatic fare payment option, FAIRFAX CONNECTOR expects to enhance its fareboxes in late 2006 to accept the SmarTrip card. Like a debit card, the SmarTrip card can pay the fare electronically, without the need for cash. SmarTrip-enhanced fareboxes are already operating on Fairfax County's Metrobus routes, and Metrorail has been accepting SmarTrip card payment for several years. The new fareboxes on FAIRFAX CONNECTOR buses will extend this technology to all of Fairfax County.

The fareboxes and garage computers that will be installed at FAIRFAX CONNECTOR are now undergoing pre-installation testing at the manufacturer. Once that testing has been completed, there will be a pilot installation of fareboxes at Alexandria DASH, followed by a 30-day "dry run" period. If no major problems are found during the dry run period, FAIRFAX CONNECTOR and the other Northern Virginia transit providers will proceed with their fleetwide farebox installations.

FAIRFAX CONNECTOR customers can expect updates to this notice as further test progress is made and installation dates are confirmed. Thank you for your patience and understanding while the region's transit providers coordinate this implementation to enable an easier payment option for you.